setting up an aromatic complex in the context of overall demand and supply of Naphtha in the country could be undertaken.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. BRPL has proposals for setting up Benzene Plant and expansion of the existing xylene plant. The proposals are at the various stages for investment approval.

Curtalling the Gas Allocation to Fertilizer Plants

1358. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI K.M. KHAN:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to cut 20 percent gas allocation to several fertilizer plants based on Hazira-Bijapur-Jagdishpur pipeline;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, stating whether this cut was anticipated and whether availability of gas was estimated, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether fertilizer plants are going to be affected adversely as a result thereof;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider the decision; and

(e) if so, by when and is not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The availability of gas along the HBJ Pipeline is less than the total demand. Supplies are accordingly regulated through Action Plans drawn up from time to time.

(c) to (e) The feedstock requirement of fertilizer plants along the HBJ Pipeline are being met. Action has also been taken to further increase the supplies.

Complaints of Irregularities against Chairman of OSBs

1359. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the Judges who were Chairmen of Oil Selection Boards up till now;

(b) whether there are any complaints of corruption, irregularities, nepotism, favouritism and the like against such Chairmen;

(c) if so, whether these complaints have been verified and enquired into; if so, what has been the outcome; and

(d) what steps are being taken to prevent such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Names of the retired Judges who were appointed Chairmen of different Oil Selection Boards from time to time since 1.1.1993 are given in the enclosed statement. (*See below*)

(b) Complaints have been received against the selections made by some of the Oil Selection Boards including alleged indulgence of certain Chairmen and Members in irregularities and malpractices.

(c) and (d) Tenure of the Chairmen and Members of such Boards has been terminated by the Government owing to their unsatisfactory performance. A few selections challenged in the Court of Law have also been set aside by the Court. A Public Interest Litigation has already been filed in the High Court of Delhi. The complaints/allegations are being looked into by the Court and the matter is subjudice. Moreover, operation of the OSBs is presently in abeyance.